

Family Fun in Cheshire

When it comes to family fun Cheshire has so much to offer, from ice cream shops and castles to Roman soldiers, roller coasters and animal attractions, Cheshire has it all. There's also a great choice of family friendly accommodation and restaurants, making it perfect for all occasions. Below are just some of the fun things that families can do in Cheshire.

Explore the city of Chester

Chester has a long and fascinating history, which is brought to life by exploring the city. There's plenty to keep families entertained in the city including:

- **Chester Cathedral** with **Cathedral at Height** tours and **Chester Cathedral Falconry and Nature Garden**
- **Grosvenor Museum**
- **Grosvenor Park**
- **Guided tours**
- **Open top bus tours**
- **River cruises**
- The most complete **city walls** in the UK

Have an animal adventure

Cheshire is home to some great animal attractions. **Chester Zoo** is the UK's largest zoo and home to over 12,500 wonderful animals and 400 different species, including some of the most endangered and exotic in the world. Islands at Chester Zoo opened in July 2015 and is a new experience that allows visitors to embark on a unique expedition to discover six different south east Asian Island habitats. The exhibition includes a river cruise, indoor rainforest and walk-through aviary. It will give you a different view of the plants, birds, insects and animals that inhabit this part of the world.

Blue Planet Aquarium at Cheshire Oaks has a great variety of sharks, fish, frogs, spiders and otters. It also has a great Aquatheatre, where you can watch scuba divers feed the fish and a 70 metre long underwater tunnel.

Explore the great outdoors

The breath-taking landscapes of **Cheshire's Peak District** provide the perfect backdrop for a family adventure. Astbury Mere Country Park, Brereton Heath Nature Reserve, Tegg's Nose Country Park and Nelson's Pit are just some of the places you can explore.

For something a little different visit **Go Ape** at Delamere Forest where you can enjoy a high ropes adventure or go on a Segway forest safari. Delamere Forest is also a great place for family cycling, as there is no traffic.

Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction are also fantastic for family days out. Many of them offer great family facilities including play areas, as well as plenty of space to burn off some energy. They also offer a wonderful range of family friendly events and some are open all year round.

Take a boat Trip

Cheshire is famous for its waterways and they have played an important role in the history of the county. As well as being great places for enjoying family walks and picnics, they are also the subject of some of Cheshire's top attractions.

Hop aboard the Edwin Clark river boat at **Anderton Boat Lift** and you'll be transported 50 feet between the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal. As well as the boat trips there are plenty of other things to keep the family entertained including interactive displays, an outdoor play area, picnic area and gift and coffee shops. The visitor centre is free to enter and boat trips run from April to October.

The **National Waterways Museum** at Ellesmere Port is packed with history brought to life through wonderful displays including a blacksmith's forge, which is still in use today, and cottages that housed some of the dock workers and show how life changed over different periods, plus more. You can also enjoy a 30 minute canal boat ride taking in the industrial landscape.

ChesterBoat offer daily cruises down the River Dee in Chester. A half hour cruise will take you along the river, under the suspension bridge and past Grosvenor Park; whilst a two hour cruise will take you down the river to Iron bridge passing Eccleston and the Eaton Estate, home to the Duke of Westminster. If you're feeling adventurous you can hire your own rowing boat or pedalo and make your own way down the river.

Family themed attractions

There are so many family friendly attractions in Cheshire, you're spoilt for choice. Visit **Gulliver's World Resort** where you can enjoy over 80 rides, shows and attractions including Splash Battle Boats, Gully's Crazy Train, Adventure Canyon and Gully's Grand Prix. You can also visit Splash Zone, the indoor wet play area that's perfect whatever the weather.

Visit **The Ice Cream Farm** where not only can you choose from over 50 flavours of ice cream you can also visit the animals at Fudge Farm. Kids will love the great play area and attractions too.

Enjoy a golfing adventure at **Paradise Island Adventure Golf**, where you can choose from two courses which include sea caves, a tropical island beach, a mysterious spice market and more and being indoors it's perfect whatever the weather.

A visit to the **Lion Salt Works** lets you discover the history of salt production and it's importance to Cheshire. There's also a great café, play area and Butterfly Garden.

You can even go in search of King Richard II's hidden treasure at **Beeston Castle**. Legend has it that the king dispersed bags of gold here en route to quell the rebellion in Ireland but to date it has never been found. Explore the castle ruins, wander through the woodland or just soak up the amazing views.

Be Amazed by Science

For a fun day out visit **Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre**, home to the world-famous Lovell Telescope and the filming location for BBC Stargazing Live. You can learn more about the Big Bang; explore the invisible Universe, play in the Space Playground and visit the Galaxy Garden.

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre is also a great attraction for all ages with plenty of hands on and interactive things to do, as well as an impressive glass, rooftop observatory with great views across the surrounding area. You can also visit the Alchemy Theatre for an exciting show.